

REMARKS

Claims 7, 13-14, 21-24, 32-33 and 36-37 have been cancelled; thus claims 1-6, 8-12, 15-20, 25-31, 34-35 and 38-41 remain pending. Claims 12 and 15-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Examiner' Restriction

Applicants hereby affirm the election of group I identified by the Examiner as claims 1-11 and 25-41.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for hosting the personal interview on March 10. In that interview, we discussed claims 1 and ways to clarify the "event notification" and "configuration record" language. We also discussed the general technology disclosed in applicants' patent application.

With regard to the "event notification" language, applicants replaced the term with the more descriptive term "network-condition notification." As Applicant describes in the patent application (e.g., at paragraph 033), network conditions can include network error notifications such as general errors, router errors, router crashes, optical device errors, optical device crashes, and other network events. And network-condition notifications are messages or notifications about these type of network conditions as well as other types of network conditions.

With regard to the general technology description given at the interview, Paragraph 15 summarizes some of that description. Paragraph 15 is reproduced below for the examiner's convenience.

[015] In essence, one embodiment of the present invention allows a configuration record to be created and/or modified for each network device regardless of the device's type, manufacturer or model. Each of the configuration records can be stored in a central repository for

simplified access, retrieval and editing. Thus, to change the configuration for any network device, the network manager unit need only retrieve the altered configuration record from the central repository, generate the device-specific commands based upon that configuration record and push those generated device-specific commands to the target network device.

In addition to paragraph 15, paragraphs 12-14 and 16 also summarize portions of the general technology description given at the interview. In addition to the above-identified paragraphs, the amendments are also supported by paragraphs 28 and 29.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 25-41 on the basis that the claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,363,411 to Dugan et al. (Dugan). In light of the clarification to the claims, applicant respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered.

Among other elements, amended claim 1 recites:

retrieving a central configuration record from a common repository of configuration records, the ~~retrieved-central~~ configuration record ~~being~~ substantially and generically representing the local configuration record of associated with the router network device

modifying the ~~retrieved-central~~ configuration record so as to generate a modified central configuration record;

generating at least one device-specific command corresponding to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-specific command is in a format that is native to the router;

transferring the generated ~~first-~~ at least one device-specific command to the router-network device, wherein the device-specific command includes at least one instruction to change the local configuration record of the router such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in the local configuration record.

Applicants submit the amendments to claim 1 make clear that the subject matter of amended claim 1 includes two distinct configuration records: a “central configuration record,” which resides in a common repository with configuration records for other network devices, and a “local configuration record of the router” that is stored, for example, on the router. As claimed, the central configuration record “substantially and generically” represents the local configuration record of the router.

As discussed in the interview, the generic nature of the central configuration record allows an administrator to make changes to the central configuration record without regard to the manufacturer or model of the associated router. The modified configuration record is then used to generate device specific commands (native to the router) that are transferred to the router so as to effectuate a change in “the local configuration record of the router such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in the local configuration record.” As a consequence, in several embodiments, simple and generic modifications that are made to a central configuration record are utilized to effectuate corresponding changes in the local configuration record of the router.

In contrast, Dugan neither teaches nor suggests maintaining two configuration records for a router. As the Examiner pointed out, Dugan does teach a centralized administration system that includes a repository 230 with a global database of record (“DBOR”) that includes multiple databases for storing Service Logic Programs (SLPs), Service Independent Building Blocks (SIBBs), datasets for customer and service data, multi-media data for IVR services, etc. (See Dugan, Col. 16, lines 15-25; Col. 17, lines 44-54). Dugan, however, does not suggest that their DBOR stores a central configuration record that “substantially and generically” represents a “local configuration record of the router” as recited in amended claim 1.

Moreover, Dugan does not suggest “changing the local configuration record of the router such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in the local configuration record” as recited in amended claim 1. For example, Dugan does not suggest making modifications to a central and generic configuration record that are translated to changes in a local configuration record that is specific to a network device.

As a consequence, applicant submits that claim 1 is novel, non-obvious and in condition for allowance.

Applicants also submit that similarly amended independent claims 25, 38 and 40 are allowable, at least, for the same reasons discussed above relative to independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-11, 26-31, 34, 35, 39 and 41 are allowable, at least, by virtue of their dependence from their respective allowable independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

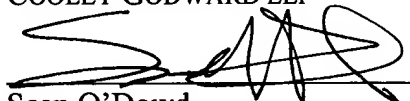
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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